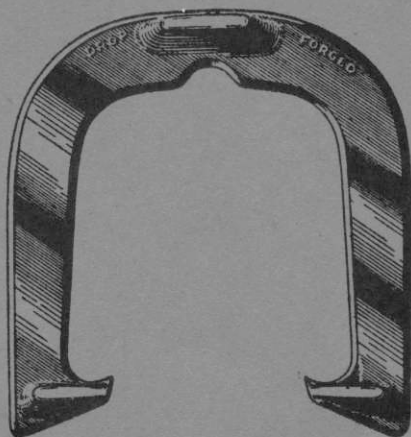


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



THE GORDON SHOE

JUNE, 1949

Vol. 1

No. 10

EDITORIAL

The Murray City Commission have issued a proclamation setting aside the week of August 14th to 20th as National Horseshoe Week. Everything will be done for the pleasure and amusement for those that attend. It is the intention of the committee there, that their part of the program shall be free to all that attend, except meals and lodging, which will be very reasonable. Plan now to attend. For reservations or information write, G. A. Berger, P. O. Box 113, Murray, Utah.

Following is the program agreed on by the committees in charge.

Friday, Aug. 12 at 1 P.M. a meeting will be called for the delegates rewriting of the Constitution and By-Laws, this meeting to continue through Saturday, or as necessary, to be ready for the convention meeting on Sunday. Free luncheon will be served at this meeting, by the Murray committee.

Sunday, Aug. 14th. The Convention meeting will be called at 1 P.M. after which a Barbecue Beef lunch will be served by the committee, free.

Monday, Aug. 15th. Qualifying will begin at 9 A.M. and continue to 12 noon on Tuesday, Aug. 16th. 200 shoes will be pitched for qualifying, the 36 highest scores will start play at 2 P.M., Aug. 16th. The qualifying fee will be \$5.00. This tournament to continue, playing afternoons, and evenings, and to terminate on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday night, Aug. 20th, the Committee have arranged for a grand Banquet for everyone, at which time the awarding of the prizes will be made.

There will also be a Ladies tournament, played in the forenoon. The number of contestants, and the prize list will be made by the committee there. Come all you Lady pitchers, we want to make this the greatest Ladies tournament ever held.

On Friday, Aug. 19th, there will be a meeting called at 10 A.M. for the election of the officers for the coming year.

We will have trained Boy Scouts as scorers. All scorers, judges, ground keepers, etc. will be paid by the N.H.P.A.

FRIENDS, take it from one that knows the situation there, and who knows those swell hospitable folks at Murray. I can assure you this will be an occasion that you will always cherish in your memories of the National tournaments.

* * *

SALT LAKE COUNTY TOURNAMENT NEWS

Plans for the coming Worlds Championship Tournament are taking shape, and are well underway. Mr. William (Bill) McCleary has been appointed the chairman for the County officers there, and he is being assisted by Mr. G. A. (Goff) Berger, the live Secretary of the Murray Horseshoe Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Salt Lake County officers that have been instrumental in having this tournament

brought to Murray. Mr. George W. Morgan, County Commissioner. Mr. Earl Howe, County Fair Board Chairman, and local Dairyman. Mr. Joe Christenson, and Elmo Brady, of the Salt Lake County Recreation Commission.

On behalf of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, I want to thank these gentlemen for their time and effort in making this tournament possible. I personally know that these are the finest courts, and have the best lighting equipment that you will find anywhere in the country; Salt Lake also has the ideal climate for this tournament, and I want to say that with the committee that I have to work with me there, this will be the greatest tournament that has ever been put on.

The committee is going to make everything pleasant for all that attend this tournament, so why not start making your plans now to be there August 14th for the meeting.

For reservations, write to Mr. G. A. Berger, P. O. Box 113, Murray Utah.

If your club has between 10 and 49 members you will be entitled to but one delegate. If your club has 50 or more members, you will be entitled to 5 delegates. If you have no State Association in the National Association you may have one delegate, up to ten members; if you have more than ten members you will be allowed two delegates.

See that every horseshoe pitcher in your State that will try to qualify at Salt Lake County Tournament has his National membership card before he comes to the tournament. This is important.

The following is the results of the six-man round-robin tournament which I conducted at the Sport Show, in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, April 22 through May 1.

I asked for one man from each of six clubs in Northern California. I had two contestants at each of 15 shows, they played three games each time, the results show the points, ringers, and shoes pitched in each series of three games. These were 50 point games, and as we would not have time to play off any ties, I decided to score them on points made. To my surprise we finished in a two way tie for first place, counting points. Don Titcomb and Bill Weathers finished with 717 points each for the 15 games played. We were forced to play one 50 point game for the winner of the Trophy. Don Titcomb won the game. There was \$111.00 in cash prizes for the six contestants.

Guy Zimmerman did the two exhibitions of trick pitchnig at each show and did a wonderful job, the spectators were amazed at his trick pitching.

Here is how they finished:

	W	L	Pts.	R	S.P.	%
Titcomb	12	3	717	169	974	73.6
Weathers	12	3	717	126	1010	68.7
Marcovich	9	6	637	112	990	68.0
Mori	7	8	597	163	1034	63.7
Braun	4	11	518	112	916	57.0
Martin	1	14	312	76	812	47.9

HARVEY W. CLEAR

* * *

CALIFORNIA

Longest and Hardest Fought So. Calif. Tournament in History

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science at the Stake" and Secy.-Treas. of
So. Calif. H. P. A.

The So. Calif. Championship Tournament, sanctioned by N.H.P.A. was held Sunday April 24th at Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Ten men qualified with an average of 237 points and 72.5% ringers. At the end of the day's pitching the results were as follows: Louis Dean of Pomona, Dean Brown of South Gate and Lowell Gray, Montebello were tied for first, second and third places. Roy W. Smith of Compton won 4th place and Eddie Packham, former So. Calif. Champion was in fifth place. The three-way tie play-off between Brown, Dean and Gray, on the following Sunday, May 1st, resulted in another three-way tie. Louis Dean, pitching a fine game this spring was favored to win but Brown coming out of an 18 months retirement upset him. Gray, in turn, downed Brown. With ringer percentages ranging from 75 to 88%, the tension among the players and spectators was so great at times that if a tom-cat had walked along the top of the wall surrounding the courts, he would have had his neck wrung for stomping his feet.

After downing Brown 2 out of 3 in this first play-off and with a good lead on Gray, Dean lost 2 games to Gray by having his ringers hop off. Gray a former State champ, pitched a fine game. Then Brown came back to snow Gray under. So, despite the anguished wails of many "horseshoe widows," Mothers Day, Sunday, May 8th was the date set for the second play-off. Neither of the three men pitched as well this time as they had the Sunday before, and none reached the 80% mark. Dean went well over 75% to win the title. Brown tossed fairly good to take second place. Gray was completely off his game and won third with scarcely over 50%. But for a period of three weeks, So. Calif. actually had three champions and everyone agreed that it was the longest and toughest and most hard fought tournament in So. Calif. tournament history. Louis Dean, "Pomona's Proficient Pitching Professor" really earned every point he made to win the title. The earthquake experience in this area, late the night of the 1st may have been caused by these three very tired finalists dropping into bed after that first play-off. The final standings in the meet are as follows:

1—Louis Dean74.5%	6—Henry Harper64.0%
2—Dean Brown72.1%	7—Al Newell60.0%
3—Lowell Gray68.1%	8—Ray Arnold60.0%
4—Roy W. Smith64.0%	9—Ray Gatewood60.0%
5—Eddie Packham71.0%	10—A. J. Byrnes59.0%

During the meeting, following the final play-off, Harlan Peet was retained as President of the So. Calif. Association. Al Newell, Vice-President and Roy W. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer. Handsome trophies were awarded the first five men in the tournament.

* * *

CONNECTICUT

Impressions of a Horseshoe Widow

By Mrs. Lee Wagner

Hereabouts the horseshoe season is about to start and I am again a horseshoe widow—maybe not quite like a golf widow as I go to the matches and keep score.

A scorekeeper sees only half the match, but it isn't necessary to see all with that on-the-way-home resume. As your face is red and burning from good old vitamin D (scorekeepers never get as hot as the players so its believed), you hear the whole match over, of course, from one man's side—your husbands.

Just like the fisherman's story of the biggest one got away horseshoes seem to get tangled up with many things going through the air to that far peg. Pant legs seem to be in for their share of the excuses, but my husband's favorite is the wind, as he pitches a high shoe. At times it seems the wind (slight breeze) comes in all directions mostly north or south depending on which stake he is trying to get the ringer.

At the beginning of the season the bowling of the past winter has done something to his horseshoe swing but as time goes on the wind takes its turn and usually lasts the rest of the season. Sometimes he uses the one about a splinter in the shoe and he has to use the file—if you ask me its just an excuse to get his second wind to pitch more shoes. But all in all it does keep it from getting monotonous.

The horseshoe widows here, do manage before the match to get in a few bits of gossip, but once the match starts its just plain horseshoes talk from then on.

MESSAGE TO ALL STATE SECRETARIES

I want to urge you all to have your delegates selected well in advance of our convention meeting at Murray, Utah, on August 14. We would like these delegates there two days before the convention meeting to assist in rewriting our new Constitution and By-Laws. Please give me the names of your delegates as soon as you have them selected.

We want your delegates to go over the present By-Laws and make changes and additions which they deem necessary and bring them to the delegates meeting, to be acted upon. We are a little short of the old By-Laws at the present time and we want at least one copy in the hands of each clubs delegates. In case you do not have a set, please let me know and I will mail you one. In case that you have several sets, would you kindly send me the extra copies so that I may send them to the less fortunate clubs?

HARVEY W. CLEAR, Secy.
912 Melrose Avenue,
Santa Cruz, Calif.

INDIANA

By Mary Branson

LADIES HORSESHOE SEASON OPENING — BROOKSIDE PARK

Wednesday, June 1, 1949—7:30 P.M.

The following program opens the 14 week schedule of team pitching by the "Indianapolis Ladies Horseshoe Pitchers Association"—the FIRST and ONLY Ladies Horseshoe Pitchers Association known of anywhere.

I—Welcoming Address.

II—7:30 to 8:00 Band Concert by Vonnegut Band, Mr. Kerner. Director.

III—Introduction of Guests.

1. Our Mayor, Al Feeney.
2. City Park Recreational Director, Mr. Thatcher.
3. Indiana State Pitchers Association President, Herb Thebo.
4. National Association President, Arlo Harris.

IV—Awards to Honorary Junior Members by Ladies Assoc. President, Rieva Wires.

V—Introduction of Teams and Sponsors.

VI—Star Spangled Banner.

VII—First shoes pitched by Mr. Feeney and Mr. Thatcher.

Team No. 1—Sponsored by F. & M. Market—2117 E. 10th.

Captained by Rieva Wires

Team No. 2—Sponsored by Griffith Food Market—2234 E. 10th.

Captained by Josephine Hemmer

Team No. 3—Sponsored by Brightwood Jewelers—2329 Station St.

Captained by Joy Hodgkin

Team No. 4—Sponsored by Haffners Variety Store—Beville and E. 10th.

Captained by Margaret Palmer

Team No. 5—Sponsored by Blythe Rubber Stamp Co.—241 N. Delaware.

Captained by Mary Branson

Team No. 6—Sponsored by Mr. Banta, a grand man in Horseshoes.

Captained by Ruth Banta, his wife

Team No. 7—Sponsored by Phoenis Press—336 N. Grant.

Captained by Ruth Harris

Team No. 8—Sponsored by E. C. Atkins—402 S. Illinois.

Captained by Charlotte Mendenhall

* * *

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New York 7, N. Y.

HORSESHOE PITCHING

1940 - 1948

By Leland S. Mortenson

(Continued from last month)

THE TOTAL COUNT PLAN

If the writer had been preparing this report a year ago, he would not have found it particularly necessary to mention the Total Count System.

However, during the past year the movement behind this revolutionary plan has grown to threatening dimensions. This plan is often referred to as the Chess System, in deference to D. O. Chess of Cleveland, Ohio, an early and present crusader for its cause.

There is nothing mysterious about the plan, and it is basically sound. However, it removes part of the competitive attractiveness that exists in the scoring system at the present time.

The Chess System has grown like a mushroom the last year, having spread from Ohio into Indiana and Kentucky. But, from a national standpoint, it is still favored by only a very small minority.

A Mr. D. J. Cowden, Adair, Iowa, deceased several years ago, was advocating this plan several years ago, that the pitchers toss a certain number of shoes per game and that the count be by total scores, and not by the cancellation system. He carried on his campaign largely by correspondence, but it was apparent that not a handful were impressed by his arguments.

Mr. D. O. Chess carried on a one-man campaign during the thirties, and because of his zeal, the plan became known as the Chess System.

By 1939, Mr. Chess had picked up some followers in Ohio and sent them to the 1939 convention.

As a result of the appeal of Mr. Chess' followers, a clause was added to the National Constitution permitting the State Associations to use this method of scoring within their own states. No other action has ever been taken by a national convention to broaden the scope of the Chess System. It is not and cannot officially be used in a tournament which extends across the boundaries of states. It is therefore illegal from the association standpoint to use this system in any tournament admitting entries from more than one state unless both state associations agree to it, or if more than two states are involved, all of those so involved would have to agree. It is illegal for a national tournament whether it is for men, women, or is a league tournament for teams.

In 1948, the followers of Mr. Chess were successful in getting Arlo Harris a zealous advocate of the Plan, elected president of the National Association. Soon after taking office, he appointed Johny Sebeck, also a Chess System supporter, to be his publicity chairman.

Mr. Sebeck has tackled his job of publicity director by publicizing the Chess System with a religious fervor that is causing some

of the opponents of this plan to become worried about its possible ultimate victory.

THE EXHIBITION PLAYERS

For many years a few horseshoe pitchers have been able to devote all their time to exhibition pitching, sometimes on a salary basis. Others have been doing this on a part-time basis. The most successful full-time operators have been Ted Allen and Jimmy Risk. Both have appeared at Madison Square Garden, Risk has been on three U. S. O. tours of the Pacific.

Some part-time exhibitionists are Guy Zimmerman, Casey Jones, and Dean Brown, Long Beach, California.

The exhibition pitchers serve a very useful purpose in bringing the game to the eyes of people not otherwise accessible. Usually, the pitcher appears as part of a sport troupe, and the fans present are people of all walks of life except the very poor.

An exhibition by Ted Allen at Madison Square Garden in the late thirties or early forties was seen by some men who later were officers in the Athletic Branch of the Army. They were so highly impressed by the skill displayed that they were later very vulnerable to the appeals of Harry Woodfield when he made his drive for army support in 1944. And, don't forget that the army program was a factor in President Truman getting interested, sort of a chain reaction.

PUBLICATIONS DEVOTED TO HORSESHOE PITCHING

The first publication devoted entirely to horseshoe pitching was the Horseshoe World, published by R. B. Howard, London, Ohio. This magazine extended into the forties, ceased publication while the United States was at war. It first came off the press in 1921, was a monthly magazine, and the subscription price was \$1.00 per year.

In 1947, Harry T. Woodfield started publication of the "Horseshoe News" a mimeographed magazine, still being published every two or three months.

On September 15, 1948, Byron Jaskulek, New York, brought out the first issue of "The Horseshoe Pitcher," an attractive booklet style publication.

It has been suggested several times that the Association run a page or two in some large magazine, thereby gaining more readers.

Roy Smith, the Los Angeles author, arranged such a plan with the Horse Lover magazine in the Spring of 1947. Horse Lover continued the arrangement until the Summer of 1948 when it was discontinued because the pitchers themselves were coming across with too few subscriptions.

Subscriptions to Horse Lover magazine were carried by most of the nation's leading libraries including New York City, Chicago, Cleveland, Omaha, Los Angeles, and St. Louis. Real fans near those cities will still get a lot of enjoyment out of reading the articles which appeared in those issues from 1947-1948.

HORSESHOE PITCHING IN FOREIGN LANDS

While horseshoe pitching is far more popular in the United States than it is in any other country, it is played extensively in Canada and

to some extent in Mexico, Germany, and Australia, and perhaps in other countries.

Dr. Geo. Siebert, Giegen-Brenz, Germany represents the association in Germany. McKay Whittle, Australia, is contact man for that country.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING HORSESHOE PITCHING

Since 1936, the A. A. U. has been conducting state and national amateur tournaments. These can be extended into the Olympics as soon as there are six nations able to put up horseshoe teams.

Nearly all over the country the park departments in all the cities sponsor regular tournaments; service organizations, like many other groups, sponsor tournaments for their members.

METHODS OF PROMOTION NOT ALREADY MENTIONED

In a few cases, cities have formed leagues to play against one another for the league championship. A plan of this type has been suggested for the National Association.

Back in 1922, 130 American colleges and universities included horseshoe pitching in their intramural sports programs. For many years, the National Association has felt that horseshoe pitching should be a regular inter-scholastic sport in the high schools and colleges, but not much systematic and consistent effort has been expended along this line.

In 1948, Byron Stoney carried on such a campaign in Iowa, and almost, but not quite, saw his efforts crowned with success. W. A. Banta, Indianapolis, is one who has proceeded with the same effort in his city.

For many years, our leading pitchers have appeared in sports shorts. These pictures have been a lot of value in promotion of the game.

Some thought has occasionally been diverted to the possibility of the association raising sufficient funds to pay Hollywood to write and produce a moving picture of several reels which should tell the complete story of the game and really sell it to the public. The thought of the association also paying an exhibition pitcher to travel about the country showing the pictures, lecturing, and otherwise selling the game has been discussed.

A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

As 1948 came to its close, horseshoe pitching had reached the greatest height of its short career.

But the members are not at all satisfied and most of them are looking forward to the day when horseshoe pitching will either pack in the cash customers at a profit to the pitchers, or that the same end can be achieved by attracting more dues-paying members to provide cash to the association to be paid out as prizes to the players.

With a concentration on team work, organization, and good judgment, it seems that the march ahead can be one of progress.

THE END

MARYLAND

By "Pop" Woodfield

My hats off to you for a bang up job of the May issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. The combination of Jake and Norman Compton can really go places IF all who love the grand old game of horseshoe pitching, will give your publication the support it well deserves.

The success of a National Organization depends largely on the publications that report its news. The number of pages and the extent of their circulation reflect ability of that organization to accomplish the purpose for which it was established.

We cannot succeed without a strong National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

The preamble to the constitution as revised in the 1940 convention presents sound principles that should be promoted by all members of N.H.P.A. It follows:

PREAMBLE SHOULD UNIFY

"Inasmuch as the art of horseshoe pitching affords a healthy, pleasant and competitive sport suitable to all persons, at a cost comparable to that of other sports, and with a desire to UNIFY ITS ADHERENTS, STANDARDIZE ITS RULES, authorize and conduct tournaments of sectional and national scope; promote the establishment of leagues and associations throughout the nation; and encourage the advancement of the game in foreign countries we, the horseshoe pitchers of America in convention assembled do hereby establish this Constitution and By-Laws for the Association which shall henceforth be called The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America."

PROMOTION BY INDIVIDUALS VITAL

If a member of N.H.P.A. sells another membership; if he leaves the court in good playing condition when he has finished (provided there are no provisions for up-keep); if he offers to coach pitchers less skillful and if he welcomes visitors, especially those from out of town, he is doing a grand job of promotion.

WHAT HAVE WE TO SELL

In addition to the promise of health and good-fellowship the main principles of our sport if we can offer full cooperation in supervision and expert instruction through "Boys' Clubs" and other Teen-Age organizations both locally and nationally and in the proper time sponsor National awards, we will have good reason to gain new members not only from participants but also from many who would be glad to do a part in making this worthy program possible.

A committee should be appointed at Murray to draw up resolutions how this program can best be organized. In the meantime start now in your own locality and be prepared to get things going after we leave Murray.

CAR OWNERS DRIVING TO MURRAY?

It is not too early for those going to the 1949 Tournament and convention (August 13-14 meetings, 15. to 20 tournament) by auto to register name, address and meeting place for riders wanted and the number they can accommodate.

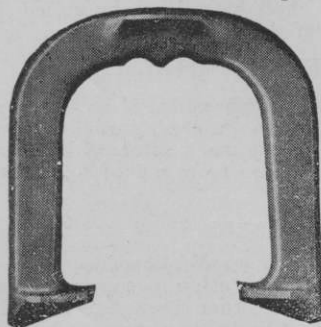
VISITORS TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

Write me of the approximate time of your arrival and phone me at WARfield 4035 and I will direct you to the public courts in Washington and our recent perfect set up here in Hyattsville, Md., just about five miles from Washington. Besides I'd like you to meet the members of both associations and a visit to my home at 4002 Oliver St., Hyattsville. Recent visitors were Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Montgomery of Cleveland, Ohio. They were married in Cleveland, May 15. Mrs. Montgomery is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Chess. The Montgomerys were on a visit to his son, T. J., Jr., in Arlington, Va. A friend from Halifax, Va., Sherman E. Overstreet came with them. We sat out on the lawn in the hot sun and talked about (guess what?).

The following week, a knock on the door, and there was E. J. Thompson, genial secretary of the Cheyenne Horseshoe Club of Wyoming, on a trip to Washington to visit a sister. Mr. Thompson is 77 and straight as an arrow, looks good for many more years. He was instrumental in getting horseshoes going in the High Schools in Cheyenne. He wants all who drive to Murray to stop and pay him a visit, his address is 2817 Snyder Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming, and his phone 7147. The 1950 Tournament and Convention should be held in Washington, D. C., with the 1950 Sesqui-Centennial. Drop a hint to your Senator or Congressman.

* * *

Pitch Ohio Horseshoes and Increase Your Ringer Percentage



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"CASEY" JONES champion horse-shoe pitcher and holder of two great world's records (87½% ringers and 13 games of 90% and over in the Milwaukee National tournament), says, "I changed to OHIO shoes in 1948 and increased my ringer average over 5%. OHIO shoes are well balanced and stay on the stake. I recommend them to beginners and all players who want to improve their game."

Price \$3.50 per pair postpaid. Write for quantity prices in lots of 4 or more pairs.

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OHIO HORSESHOE COMPANY

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Station F

Columbus, Ohio

NEW YORK STATE

The Empire State branch of the N.H.P.A. will hold the New York State Championship Tournament on July 2-3-4. These games will be held on the courts of the Hilltop H. C., in Central Park, N. Y. at 106th Street and Central Park West (Circle Lawn). The tournament will consist of a twenty-man round robin. Rules and regulations of the N.H.P.A. will govern all games. Every entrant must hold a membership card of the National Assn. Entry fee, \$2.00.

Qualifying will be by pitching 100 shoes on July 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Games will begin at 2:00 p.m. on the same day. A trophy and liberal cash prizes will be awarded. If you intend to enter this tournament, please send in your letter of entry accompanied with check or money order for your National card and entry fee to the Secretary, Byron Jaskulek, 5 Terrace View Avenue, N. Y. 63, N. Y., by June 30. Any other information will be gladly given by me. (Jake).

* * *

NEW JERSEY

FILECCIA COPS ESSEX COUNTY OPEN

That there is no substitute for tournament experience was never proved more conclusively than by Vito Fileccia when he won two straight playoff games to defeat Pat Brady for the Essex County Open Championship at Branch Brook Park, Newark, N. J., Sunday, May 15.

All even at 8 wins and 1 loss each after regular play, Vito came from behind to pull out the first overtime session then jumped to an early lead and was never headed as he took the final game and the title. He averaged 70.4% for the meet and Brady, a definite "comer" and a good, game young pitcher with a great future before him averaged 58.5%. Bill Kolb, former Jersey Champion, averaged 62.4% for 3rd. High game for the day was posted by Vito with 88.2%. This is only a few tenths from the Jersey record held by Joe Puglise. Mullady, defending champion, was 5th.

Sol Berman swept his 5 games with a 50.7% mark to take Class B and Frank McCrink won 4 straight, pitching 45.5% for the Class C title.

The complete results follow on Jersey's first tourney of the year:

Class A	W	L	%
1—Fileccia, N. Y.....	10	1	70.4%
2—Brady, P., N. Y.....	8	3	58.5%
3—Kolb, N. J.....	7	2	62.4%
4—Courtock, N. J.....	5	4	53.8%
5—Mullady, N. J.....	5	4	50.5%
6—Earley, Jr., N. Y.....	4	5	54.2%
7—McCrink, J., N. J.....	3	6	52.1%
8—Creeley, Jr., N. J.....	2	7	47.1%
9—Culmone, N. J.....	2	7	41.6%
10—Bagley, N. Y.....	1	8	51.3%
Class B			
1—Berman, N. J.....	5	0	50.7%
2—Nugent, Jr., N. J.....	3	2	42.7%
3—Heseler, N. Y.....	3	2	38.0%
4—Seacord, N. Y.....	2	3	44.0%
5—Gill, N. Y.....	2	3	33.6%
6—Brady, V., N. Y.....	0	5	24.4%

Class C			
1—McCrink, F., N. J.....	4	0	45.4%
2—Earley, Sr., N. Y.....	3	1	30.8%
3—Landers, Jr., N. J.....	2	2	42.9%
4—Kempe, N. J.....	1	3	29.6%
5—Le Bon, N. Y.....	0	1	36.9%
6—Vietmeyer, N. J.....	0	1	27.6%
7—Smith, R., N. J.....	0	1	25.0%
8—Ackley, N. J.....	0	1	17.9%

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Due to bad weather, the Metropolitan H. P. A. of the New York area, instead of beginning on May 22nd they did not get the shoes flying until the 29th. They'll all be on the move now until the end of September.

* * *

The Hillside H. C. just completed their Winter bowling season and are now up to their necks in horseshoes.

* * *

The next scheduled tournament for the New Jersey H. P. A. will have been played on June 12th at Warinaco Park, in Elizabeth, N. J. This is named the John Rosselet Memorial Open. Lots of players from nearby States are entered in this popular event.

* * *

The 107th annual Mineola Fair will hold their yearly horseshoe pitching tournament at Mineola. Long Island from Sept. 13th to the 17th inclusive. They have just installed new courts which ought to help make the games run smoothly. All the New York shoe tossers will be there. Me too. Will have full details later.

* * *

The East Park H. C. of Pittsburgh, Pa., are going to hold the Pennsylvania State Championship match on Saturday, Aug. 13th. Are you listening, John Fulton? The games will be played on the club's courts, situated at the corner of Avery and Union Avenues, N. S. in Pittsburgh.

* * *

Ralph and Marie Kampschroeder are both primed for their coming visit to the Murray championships. Ralph and Wilbur Markley just won the doubles championship in the Lawrence, Kansas bowling tournament. Their score was 1214. They both got a beautiful trophy and cash prizes. They sent me a fine large picture posing with the trophies they won and they both look very handsome. Talking about pictures, this Kansas couple are going to send the movies they shot of the 1947 world's championships over to our good friend Dr. Siebert in Germany. so he can show the folks over there what a real horseshoe match looks like. He will be more than pleased to receive them.

* * *

Dr. C. W. Vandas, of St. Paul, Minn., thinks the answers to the following questions may interest a good many players. Here they are: 1. What is the best way to get into shape for a season of play in a league or tournament if your work keeps you busy eight hours a day? Alone or with a partner? 2. How does night pitching differ from day pitching? 3. Describe best lighting effect for a group of courts. This is a job for some of you experts.

* * *

Here is a reminder—The poll on the two systems of counting will close at the end of this month, so if you have not sent in a card on this matter do it now. I'll have the results in next month's issue.

* * *

New Yorkers! Send me a buck for your dues.

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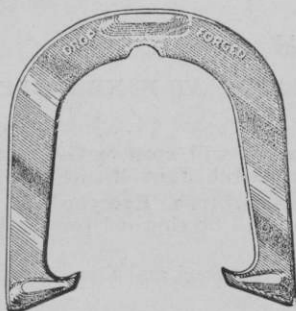
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* * *

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OHIO

The Ohio State Championship Tournament to be held at Jermain Park, Toledo, Bill Konz, Tournament director, Tournament to be held in conjunction with the annual "Aquarama Festival" which lasts two solid weeks and championships are held in chess, checkers, weight lifting, track, softball, casting, archery, swimming, tennis. Also the Aquarama annual Horseshoe Tournament and this year's State Horseshoe Championships.

Russ Yaus, Canton, defending champion. Players must carry combined club-state-National cards, no limit on entries. (Deadline for entries July 1.) Mail entries to John Kovacs, state secretary. Ten 50-shoe games to be pitched across 10 courts—5 games at 9 a.m.; 5 games at 1 p.m. (total points). Choice of dates—July 9-10, 16-17. Entry fee \$3.00 per man, State Championship. Trophy furnished by "Aquarama Festival" Committee. Prize money to be distributed 50%, 30%, 20%.

\$1.00 entry fee for handicap tournament using highest sanctioned league average as of June 18 (120 scratch). Total points for 10 games, plus 100% handicap will decide and win handicap championship trophy, which will be purchased from \$1.00 entry fee. Both tournaments will run concurrently, i.e., players score for 10 games will be used for both tournaments, if players are eligible. Complete schedules showing opponents, court number and round numbers, will be mailed to all contestants in advance of their appearance on courts.

State convention and banquet to be held in Jermain Park, July 9th, at which time National Delegates will be named; officers elected; and plans laid for 1950, new national constitution proposals will also be discussed. Arlo Harris, National President, will deliver the opening address.

Hank Jarus, Pres.,
John Kovacs, Secy.,
Ohio Horseshoe Pitchers Assn.

* * *

UTAH

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT SLATED AT PANHANDLE

Calling all horseshoe pitchers!

Old Tack and the VFW of Panhandle will sponsor the first annual Great Plains Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, June 4th at Panhandle.

Entry fee will be \$2, which includes barbecue. Everybody is welcome to attend the all-day affair. One dollar will be charged for the barbecue for those not entered in the tournament.

Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in both singles and doubles divisions.

Entries will be mailed to Tournament Director P. H. Hawkins, Box 243, Panhandle. Jim Cray is the assistant tournament director.

STEEL RINGER STICK

For Top Convenience—Instant Test for 6 Inches or for a Ringer Reaches across shoe points—So tidy you won't know it's in your pocket.

Send a Quarter for 2 postpaid or a Dollar prepaid for Ten to:

C. S. GERRISH, Box 2, Portsmouth, N. H.

UTAH

By G. A. Berger

In the May HORSESHOE PITCHER the ideas for changes in the World Championship tournament would do a lot of harm to this great game of horseshoes and they would be the surest way to do away with the N.H.P.A. Let's keep the cancellation system, where the best man wins and play not less than a 32 man round robin. What we want is to boost the N.H.P.A. not do away with it. When you break up into districts you would be adding a great cost to players as the area they cover would be too great for a great many players to take part. I think that most players plan their vacation so as to be able to go to the one great tournament every year and try and qualify to play in the big event. I do think that each State should, where there is an association, sponsor their State champion so that he could go to the World's Tournament. In that way each State would be sure to have the cream of the crop there. I know under the present system Utah will have at least 60 players trying to get into this great tournament. Let's keep the N.H.P.A. growing and let's get a lot more big lighted courts where we can all get out and have a good time.

* * *

NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

National League — 1949 Season

Indianapolis—City Ice Cream Co., Sponsor
Peyton Printz, Captain—RR. 6, Box 781
Canton, Ohio—Selways, Sponsor
John Sebek, Captain—2236 Winfield N. E.
Covington, Ky.—Shady Shores, Sponsor
Chas. Eha, Captain—636 Lexington, Newport, Ky.
Chicago, Ill.
L. Miller, Captain—955 N. Central Ave.

Rules

Five man teams—50 shoe games, round robin games, total points to decide game won—in case of ties, to be broken down as follows: R., D.R., point Pct., 10 man roster, players to reside 30 miles from home town—sanctioned players and shoes only. All games at 2:00 p.m. C.S.T. Home teams hold courts and call scores, visitors move. Home team responsible for scoring and court condition and sending score sheets immediately to John Kovacs, 3303 Arbor Rd. S.W., Canton, 10, Ohio. In case of rain prediction from weather stations, call visiting team within 24 hours to avoid unnecessary travels. Contact your newspapers before and after each game to receive the proper publicity.

Schedule

May 22—Covington at Canton; Chicago at Indianapolis
June 5—Indianapolis at Covington
June 19—Indianapolis at Canton; Covington at Chicago
June 26—Canton at Chicago
July 3—Canton at Covington; Indianapolis at Chicago
July 17—Chicago at Canton; Covington at Indianapolis
July 31—Canton at Indianapolis; Chicago at Covington

In case of tie in standing, two games will be played one at each city and the team scoring the most points for the two games will become Champion of the National League for 1949.

Captains: Please make the utmost effort to see that all rules are lived up to, and that the schedule is played complete. This is very important as this is only the beginning and the league will be better in 1950.

Do not forget your publicity.

Complete roster of the league will be mailed to all captains as soon as the list is completed.

Captains: Please send me your phone numbers so I can furnish the opposing teams with this information.

Johnny Kovacs,
3303 Arbor Rd. S.W.
Canton 10, Ohio.

* * *

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT AND OFFICIATING

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science at the Stake" and Secy.-Treas. of So. Calif. H. P. A.

The time element was not so important in the early days of Horse-shoe Pitching as it is now. Then, a leisurely two weeks or more were spent in playing off a meet for the national championship. The first half of this period was devoted to a round-robin wherein each contestant played each of the others one game. During the second half, the best pitchers, who had not been eliminated, played each other until the strongest one won the title.

As a rule, the entrants consisted of the professionals who followed the tournaments, with a number of local players and wealthy vacation-ists filling in to complete the schedule. It was not uncommon for a little known pitcher to appear and walk off with the title as was the case in 1922, when Frank Lundin accomplished this feat.

"SCIENCE AT THE STAKE"

This 66 page book is a complete analysis of the Scientific art of tossing ringers. Contains 1001 hints from the champions on how to improve your game. Well illustrated. No horseshoe pitching fan can afford to be without this book. Send only 50c in coin or (3-cent) stamps. No checks or C.O.D. orders please.

ROY W. SMITH
1442 East 153rd Street
Compton 3, California

But, during the past 20 years, the game has grown more scientific and faster in every way. Today, the entrants are all professionals; most of them young, well-trained athletes who set a terrific pace in their eager efforts to win the coveted titles. Gone are those leisurely and long-winded contests. The accent now is on speed, endurance and time-saving efficiency in running off a tournament. This applies to all of our modern sports which have been streamlined to conform to the public demand. This writer believes that the day is gone forever when an obscure tosser can leave his backyard court and win a national title. In fact, many players with ringer percentages well above the 80 mark, attend the national meets year after year and fail to win the title!

In the twenties, the majority of the entrants were farmers who were nearing the 40 or 50 year age marks. Only a few youths, like Putt Mossman, were to be seen in a field of forty or fifty much older men. Now, it is surprising if many past 45 reach the finals and they have to be exceptionally fine pitchers to do this. This statement is not made to discourage the older class of players, but is merely used to point out that horseshoe pitching, like most other major sports, has become a young man's game. This especially applies to national tournament play.

The amazing growth and scientific progress of the sport, during the past 20 years has made obsolete many of the ideas used back in the twenties. However, it is not the intention to waste time and space here in attempting to describe the various methods of tournament play used in the past. Some were good and are still widely used, while others not so good have been discarded.

Up-to-date tournament officials realize the vital importance of good showmanship. Although it is not necessary for one to be a second P. T. Barnum, he must know how to match the players in the best possible way so as to build the tournament up to the final big climax. This is when the two finalists meet to battle it out for the championship. Spectator interest governs the plans and actions of all alert sports officials for they realize that sports-appeal can be built up only by proper publicity and showmanship. Regardless of its splendid merits, a game cannot attain its rightful place among the major sports unless it can be made appealing to the public.

At the same time, a horseshoe tournament must be conducted in such a way that it gives the majority of players the maximum of satisfaction from a playing standpoint. This often proves difficult and in order to do it the various classes of players must be considered. First, the Class A or top-notchers attends the meet with the idea of either winning or taking one of the higher prizes. He does not favor a long-drawn-out affair with a lot of weak competition to tire him out before his more important games. He prefers the tournament to be as short and sweet as possible. Second, the B and C class players come hoping only to qualify and gain experience in competing against the experts.

The more games they get to play the better they like it and a short-scheduled plan that eliminates them too quickly often causes a great deal of disappointment and protest. Since these two latter classes are greatly in the majority and contribute most of the entry fees, they must receive a fair amount of recognition. Failure to do this will result in smaller tournaments and smaller prize lists.

Considering all this, the tournament official has to be a diplomat and effect a compromise among the different classes of pitchers. If there is sufficient time and court facilities, the players can be divided into two or three classes; if not, then the good players must agree to meet a number of the weaker ones and these, in turn, must realize that the meet is being held to decide a championship and the games must be limited in number. The spectators attend to see the champions fight it out for the title and are not interested in witnessing a long string of one-sided games. However, they do not mind a few such matches to enable them to see how their favorites are performing .

So, the tournament manager must come to the meet with his plans and schedules arranged to meet all existing conditions and probable situations. If he knows in advance the number of players, he can prepare individual schedules for each pitcher, listing his games and the courts on which he will play them. Then all he has to do is hand out the numbers and the corresponding schedules. Whenever possible, it is a

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fine plan to use a large scoreboard with the name and number of each player displayed for all to see. Such a board can be several feet in length and not only helps to create more spectator-interest, but aids the players to move smoothly through the different phases of the tournament.

Briefly summed up, the modern tournament official is a combination of showman, diplomat, mathematician and efficiency expert; inasmuch as he may often be called upon to display the wisdom of Solomon in making decisions, he must be a shrewd judge of human nature. He is a true sportsman in every respect and by showing that he thoroughly knows the game, he quickly gains the confidence of the players and audience alike. Without him and his assistants to plan and stage the show, the players would be unable to present the game to its best advantage. He works quietly and efficiently back of the scenes and receives no medals and far too little praise for his efforts. Capable, thoroughly experienced tournament managers are as valuable as jewels and are not to be found at a moment's notice. They deserve great praise for their faithful service in helping to create a better horseshoe world.

HOW TO CONDUCT A HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Call a meeting of all the players or have a printed notice to distribute among them. These printed forms are to contain the date, place, list of prizes, entry fee, method of qualification, who is eligible to play, and other information.

Have each entry to pitch 100 or 200 shoes to determine which ones make the highest scores. If there is a large number of entries with sufficient time and court facilities, divide the players into two or three classes. 55% or over Class A; 40 to 55% Class B; under 40% Class C. Each player in each class plays one 50-point game with every player in his group. The player winning the most games will be the champion in his class. All ties to be played off. When the time and number of courts are limited, have entries pitch 100 shoes, count all points and take an even number of those making the highest qualifying scores and have one tournament. Each player plays the other and the one winning the most games is declared the champion.

Have an official scorer and referee, also a man to keep the grounds in condition at each court.

A well-conducted tournament should pass through three phases of play. (1) **The Qualifying Rounds** (or preliminaries). (2) **The Round-Robin**. (3) **The Finals**. In the qualifying rounds all entrants should be regarded as equal and the manager should act as though he had never heard of a single player in the meet. In a world's championship and in many state meets, the defending champion is not required to qualify. There are various methods used to start play; however, the

experienced manager does not match the best players together at the start if he can help it. The hit-and-miss method of drawing numbers from a hat often does this. In most meets, the highest players are matched against the lowest ones, or the defending champion or best pitcher is given number one and the others numbered according to the place in which they qualified. The best plan is to bring the more evenly matched players together for the finals.

The majority of clubs favor the 100 or 200 pitched shoes plan of qualification because it is the simplest way and does not consume so much time as the old preliminary elimination process. Many of the weaker pitchers argue against this method on the grounds that it strictly favors the experts and permits them to get through the tournament with a minimum of effort. However, the top-flight pitcher cannot be blamed because the weaker player fails to qualify, and the plan is equally fair to all. As in boxing, the fighter who possesses the most science and the hardest punch wins the match.

Sometimes a good player fails to qualify because he cannot make as high a percentage when pitching alone as he can in competition. On the other hand, a weaker player may "get hot" and toss a high qualifying score only to fall down under the pressure of competition. This goes to show that the better player does not always get into a tournament. Neither does the highest ringer percentage always win because the winner is decided on the basis of games won and lost. Then too, a player can be outpointed in a game or experience the bad fortune of losing several ringers at the most inopportune time. Nevertheless, the good and bad breaks are part of every game and work both ways. If a pitcher is not satisfied with his first qualifying try, he is sometimes given a chance to put up additional money for a second one. Then, if he fails to make the grade, he shouldn't expect a place in the tournament. As in all sports, it is necessary to establish certain limitations.

Before starting play, a sufficient number of scorekeepers must be obtained and instructed as to the proper way to keep the scores. The players are informed as to the way the meet is to be conducted and reminded of certain rules governing play and conduct. Referees are appointed to render decisions on close shoes, ringers and fouls. The officials should be as lenient as possible but the rules should be strictly enforced with no favors accorded one player over any of the others. If a point arises that the rules fail to cover, the officials must try to decide the fairest way and then stick to their decision.

Horseshoe Pitching tournaments, large or small, should be held as often as possible. They will do more to create interest and develop the younger class of players than all the practicing alone, in the backyard, can ever hope to do. Good competition is the prevailing factor in all sports. Help create more of this by "Teaching the Teen-agers to Toss" and staging more horseshoe pitching tournaments in your locality.